IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended and new claims 118 and 119 have been added as follows:

1. (currently amended) [[An]] A non-elastomeric article comprising an essentially porous polytetrafluoroethylene tube provided with a covering of one or more layers of porous and essentially polytetrafluoroethylene film, said tube having a circumference wherein the circumference of said porous polytetrafluoroethylene tube increases in response to the application of internal pressure up to a second circumference that is at least 100% larger than said circumference prior to the application of the internal pressure, thereafter the second circumference remains substantially unchanged with further increasing internal pressure if used within a designed range of operating pressures.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The article of claim I having a wall thickness less than or equal to about 0.25 mm.

4. (previously presented) The article of claim 3 having a wall thickness less than or equal to about 0.10 mm.

5. (previously presented) The article of claim I wherein said porous polytetrafluoroethylene tube has a microstructure of nodes interconnected by fibrils.

6. (previously presented) The article of claim 5 wherein said one or more layers of porous polytetrafluoroethylene film are helical layers.

7. (previously presented) The article of claim 6 in which said helical layers are in the form of a tube.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The article of claim 6 in which said porous polytetrafluoroethylene film is thermally bonded to the porous polytetrafluoroethylene tube.

10. (previously presented) The article of claim 6 in which the tube exhibits minimal recoil following removal of a circumferentially distending force.

11-13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The article of claim 6 adapted for use as a vascular graft.

15. (previously presented) The article of claim 14 having a wall thickness less than or equal to about 0.25 mm.

16. (previously presented) The article of claim 15 having a wall thickness less than or equal to about 0.10 mm.

17. (previously presented) The article of claim 14 having first and second opposing ends wherein the second circumference at the first opposing end is larger than the second circumference at the second opposing end whereby the tube is tapered between the first and second opposing ends.

18. (previously presented) The article of claim 14 wherein the tube is branched and has at least three ends.

19. (previously presented) The article of claim 14 adapted for use as an intraluminal graft.

20. (previously presented) The article of claim 19 wherein the intraluminal graft is secured to a blood conduit by sutures.

21. (previously presented) The article of claim 19 wherein the intraluminal graft is secured to a blood conduit by a stent.

22. (previously presented) The article of claim 19 wherein the circumference is increased by inflating a balloon.

23. (previously presented) The article of claim 19 wherein the circumference is increased by blood pressure.

24 (previously presented) The article of claim I adapted for use as a vascular graft.

25 (previously presented) The article of claim 24 adapted for use as an intraluminal graft.

26. (previously presented) The article of claim I wherein the tube exhibits minimal recoil following a substantial reduction in pressure.

27. (previously presented) The article of claim I wherein the film-covered tube comprises an interior liner adapted for use within a separate tubular form selected from the group consisting of tubes, pipes and blood conduits.

28. (previously presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the blood conduits are prosthetic vascular grafts.

29. (previously presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the blood conduits are living blood vessels.

30. (previously presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the interior liner covers an anastomosis.

31. (previously presented) The article of claim I having first and second opposing ends wherein the second circumference at the first opposing end is larger than the second circumference at the second opposing end whereby the tube is tapered between the first and second opposing ends.

32. (previously presented) The article of claim I wherein the tube is branched and has three ends.

33. (previously amended) An article comprising an essentially porous polytetrafluoroethylene tube provided with a covering of one or more layers of porous and essentially polytetrafluoroethylene film, said film-covered tube having a first circumference at a first internal pressure of atmospheric pressure, a second circumference at a second internal pressure of greater than atmospheric pressure, said second circumference being at least 100% greater than the first circumference, wherein upon applying an internal pressure greater than the second internal pressure but within a designed range of operating pressures, the second circumference remains substantially unchanged.

34. (canceled)

35. (previously presented) The article of claim 33 wherein said tube is adapted for use as a vascular graft.

36-117. (canceled)

118. (new) 1. An article consisting of an essentially porous polytetrafluoroethylene tube provided with a covering of one or more layers of porous and essentially polytetrafluoroethylene film, said tube having a circumference wherein the circumference of said porous polytetrafluoroethylene tube increases in response to the application of internal pressure up to a second circumference that is at least 100% larger than said circumference prior to the application of the internal pressure, thereafter the second circumference remains substantially unchanged with further increasing internal pressure if used within a designed range of operating pressures.

119. (new) A non-elastomeric article comprising an essentially porous polytetrafluoroethylene tube provided with a covering of one or more layers of porous and essentially polytetrafluoroethylene film, said tube having a circumference wherein the circumference of said porous polytetrafluoroethylene tube increases in response to the application of internal pressure up to a second circumference that is

at least 100% larger than said circumference prior to the application of the internal pressure, thereafter the second circumference remains substantially unchanged with further increasing internal pressure if used within a designed range of operating pressures.